

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 172350
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/C:DWCOX:MMS

APPROVED BY ARA:FJDEVINE

M/CT - JKARKASHIAN

ACTION - FHANSEN (SUBS)

S/S-O-TGMARTIN

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P 230025Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 172350

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO

SUBJECT: STARR KIDNAPPING - SELECTION OF INTERMEDIARY

REFERENCE: STATE 155192

1. ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DEVINE DISCUSSED KIDNAPPING AND QUESTION OF INTERMEDIARY WITH AMBASSADOR BARCO JULY 19. COLOMBIAN EMBASSY MINISTER-COUNSELOR LOPEZ AND COUNTRY OFFICER COX ALSO PARTICIPATED.

2. DEVINE REVIEWED WITH BARCO THE HIGH-LEVEL USG CONCERN FOR STARR, AS EXPRESSED TO GOC BY THE PRESIDENT, MRS. CARTER, THE SECRETARY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, AND AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ. BARCO SAID THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ IS ALSO VERY CONCERNED AND HAS TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE CASE. BARCO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE
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FARC IS POLITICALLY-MINDED AND DISCIPLINED AND IMPLIED THAT THE FARC WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO KILL STARR. HE URGED PATIENCE AND CAUTION, AND REFERRED TO THE LONG PERIOD OF CAPTIVITY OF HONORARY DUTCH CONSUL LEUPIN.

3. BARCO AGREED THAT MRS. JENSEN WOULD NEED AN INTERMEDIARY SHOULD THE FARC MAKE ANY DEMANDS ON HER. HE FELT THAT A

PERSONAL APPROACH TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ WOULD BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN ASSURANCES THAT THE GOC WOULD NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST AN INTERMEDIARY. BARCO WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE SUCH AN APPROACH ON A TRIP TO BOGOTA, BUT AT PRESENT HE HAS NO TRAVEL PLANS. BARCO INDICATED THAT THE MATTER WAS TOO DELICATE FOR HIM TO HANDLE BY CABLE OR LETTER FROM WASHINGTON. HE SUGGESTED A DISCREET, INFORMAL INQUIRY TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ.

4. TASK FORCE BELIEVES QUESTION OF INTERMEDIARY SHOULD BE CLARIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND PREFERABLY SHOULD NOT AWAIT TRAVEL BY BARCO TO BOGOTA IN THE INDEFINITE FUTURE. THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OBJECTION, YOU SHOULD MAKE ORAL APPROACH TO FONMIN LIEVANO OR PRESIDENT LOPEZ AS SOON AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE. PLEASE ADVISE.

VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO, US, PC, (STARR, RICHARD)
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